

From: Jim Wilcoxson
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 11/30/01 11:34am
Subject: Settlement of MS antitrust suit

This settlement of shoving even MORE Microsoft products down the throats of future consumers (school children) is a joke. It will only further Microsoft's monopoly - legally, and with the government's blessing.

To make a REAL difference, force Microsoft to publish the source to Windows, Internet Explorer, and Office, on an ongoing basis, and publish their internal technical notes and communications about these products. I consider all 3 of these products to be the result of monopoly tactics, incrementally forced on consumers. Remember the days when Office was bundled with every single PC? Hmm... wonder why they don't do that now? Oh yeah - they've killed all the competition, so now it's party time!

To ensure that they are providing the REAL source, have a 3rd party run Microsoft's build procedures and ensure that the executable the 3rd party generates is identical to the Microsoft executables it proposes to release.

This will ensure that developers at least have equal access to the foundations of personal computing that Microsoft enjoys. Windows and IE I would consider essential. Office, maybe not - I'm not as involved in that market.

It's utterly sickening to me that the government has thrown up its hands and said "Hey, Microsoft is going to make this difficult for us, so let's just slap them on the wrist and move on." They are a disgusting company that wants monopoly control of any market related to technology that has huge profit potential, and it's the consumers that suffer because they have the means to enter related markets incrementally, kill any existing or potential competition, and then do as they please.

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